

GET PETAL PRETTY WITH A

TULIP DRESS

that's always in season

A tailored dress can be blooming marvellous, and Amanda Walker's fresh geo twist on the classic tulip style pairs a fitted waistline with a petal-shaped hemline, creating a cool silhouette. It gives you the perfect chance to stretch your stitching muscle with a variety of sewing techniques, incorporating bias binding, an elasticated waistband and a buckled belt, so you can brush up on your dressmaking techniques while making a truly stylish hardy perennial!

ESSENTIAL KIT

Fabric, 3.3m x 150cm
Co-ordinating thread
Elastic, 1cm wide

PLUS:

Hook and bars
Self-adhesive buckram
Buckle
Copydex

MEASUREMENT:

Custom sized

FIND PATTERN
ONLINE MAKE IT
TODAY.CO.UK



CUTTING GUIDE:

Front: Cut Four (Two Pairs)

Back: Cut One on Fold

Elastic: 38cm (small),
42cm (medium), 46cm (large)
1.5cm seam allowances
throughout, except for back
neckline edge, which is bound.
Stitch right sides together
unless otherwise instructed.





"If you're short of fabric, try this: instead

of cutting the fronts double, cut them with a lining or perhaps a contrasting fabric. The belt and bias binding could be cut in this as well to create a design detail."

AMANDA WALKER, DESIGNER

TULIP DRESS

1 Prepare the main front and back fabric pieces using the pattern downloaded from makeittoday.co.uk. From a scrap of the fabric, cut a 4cm x 30cm bias strip to fit around the back neckline. Fold and press in 1cm on either side. Open one side of the strip and position it around the neckline. Pin in place and stitch along the fold line pressed into the strip.

2 Fold the strip over on to the wrong side of the neckline and position the remaining folded edge over the stitching line. Pin and edge-stitch in place, sandwiching the raw edge of the neckline inside the bias binding. Trim any excess binding at the edges of the shoulders. Neaten the edges of the back side seams with a zigzagging or overlocking stitch. Fold and press in the seam allowance from the shoulder to the armhole notch.

3 Sandwich the back shoulder seams between the shoulders of the two fronts. The wrap-front dress pieces are doubles, with one of each pair acting as the lining. With right sides facing, match the shoulder seams of the dress back with one set of front dress pieces, making sure the back dress lies on top. Pin, then lay the remaining set of front pieces on top of the back, matching the shoulder seams; the right side of the front pieces should face down on the wrong side of the back. The back shoulder is shorter than the front shoulders, 1.5cm at each end. Stitch the layers together.

4 Stitch from the shoulder neck point down the front seam, round the curve to

the edge of the side seam. On the other side of the shoulder, sew as far as the armhole notch. Trim the curved seam allowance close to the stitching lines.

5 Turn the front pieces to the right sides through the side seams. Clip to release the side seams on the front pieces at the armhole notches. Tease out the curved edges and press flat. Neaten the front side seams with overlocking or zigzagging. Match and stitch the back and front side seams together. The back side seam should be 3cm longer than the front; turn it up and hand-hem. You can hand-hem the pressed back armhole.

6 Attach the elastic to the waistline. Stitch the elastic to the line indicated

on the pattern, starting and finishing as shown. Stretch the elastic as you stitch, so the fabric gathers as the elastic relaxes. Stitch a hook to the edges of the front pieces on both sides, right over left. The hooks need stitching 3cm from the side seams. Try on the dress if it helps to find the most suitable position.

7 To make the belt, measure your waist and add an extra 20cm. Cut a strip of 2.5cm-wide buckram to this measurement and make an arrow head at one end. Stick the buckram to the wrong side of a fabric strip that is twice as wide and a little longer. Fold the edges of the fabric to the back of the buckram and secure with Copydex. Attach a buckle to the flat end of the belt.

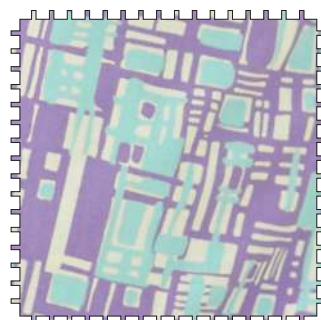


FOR
TOP TAILORING
TIPS ON SEASONAL
JACKETS, TURN TO OUR
SHOWCASE ON P38

SHAPE SMART

This highly stylised design, with its cinched waist and tapered hemline, creates the illusion of the ubiquitous tulip turned on its head. With its intriguing curved edges and the chance to suggest a daring flash of leg, this dress is a master stroke of design. It's a lovely fit for all figures, concealing curves on more shapely women while giving fullness to flatter figures thanks to its folds and layers.

FABRIC LOVE



INPRINT TEXTURES PURPLE

This post-modern collision of bold rectangles and lines from Inprint by Jane Makower meshes soft purples and duck-egg blues against a cream backdrop. Available for £11 per metre from sewscrumptious.co.uk.



TULIP DRESS

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DESIGNER AMANDA WALKER

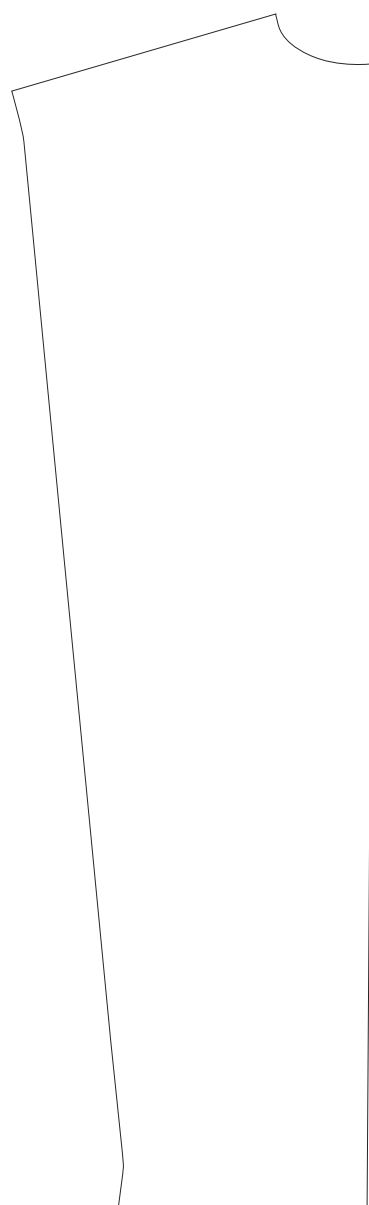
CUTTING GUIDE:

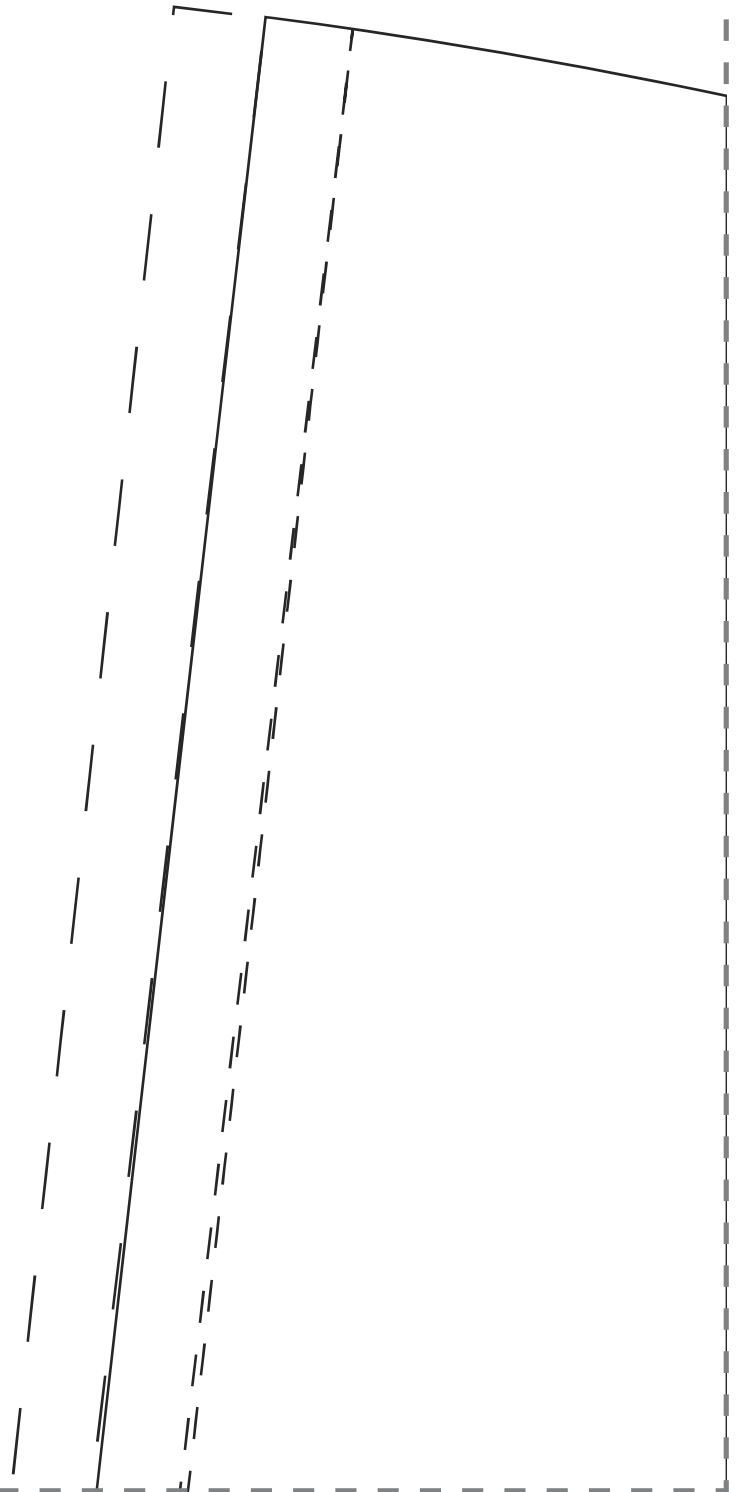
Front: Cut Four (Two Pairs)

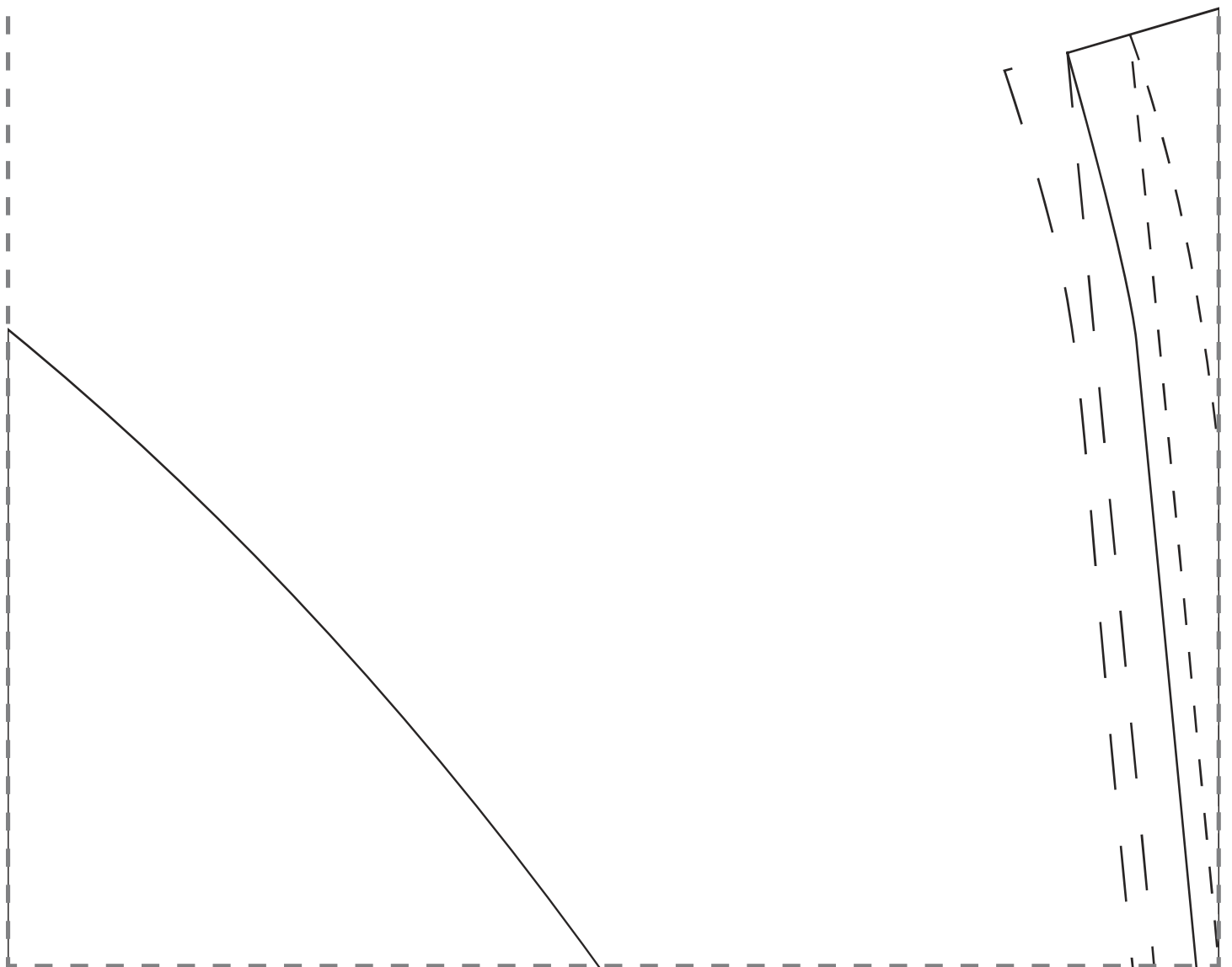
Back: Cut One on Fold

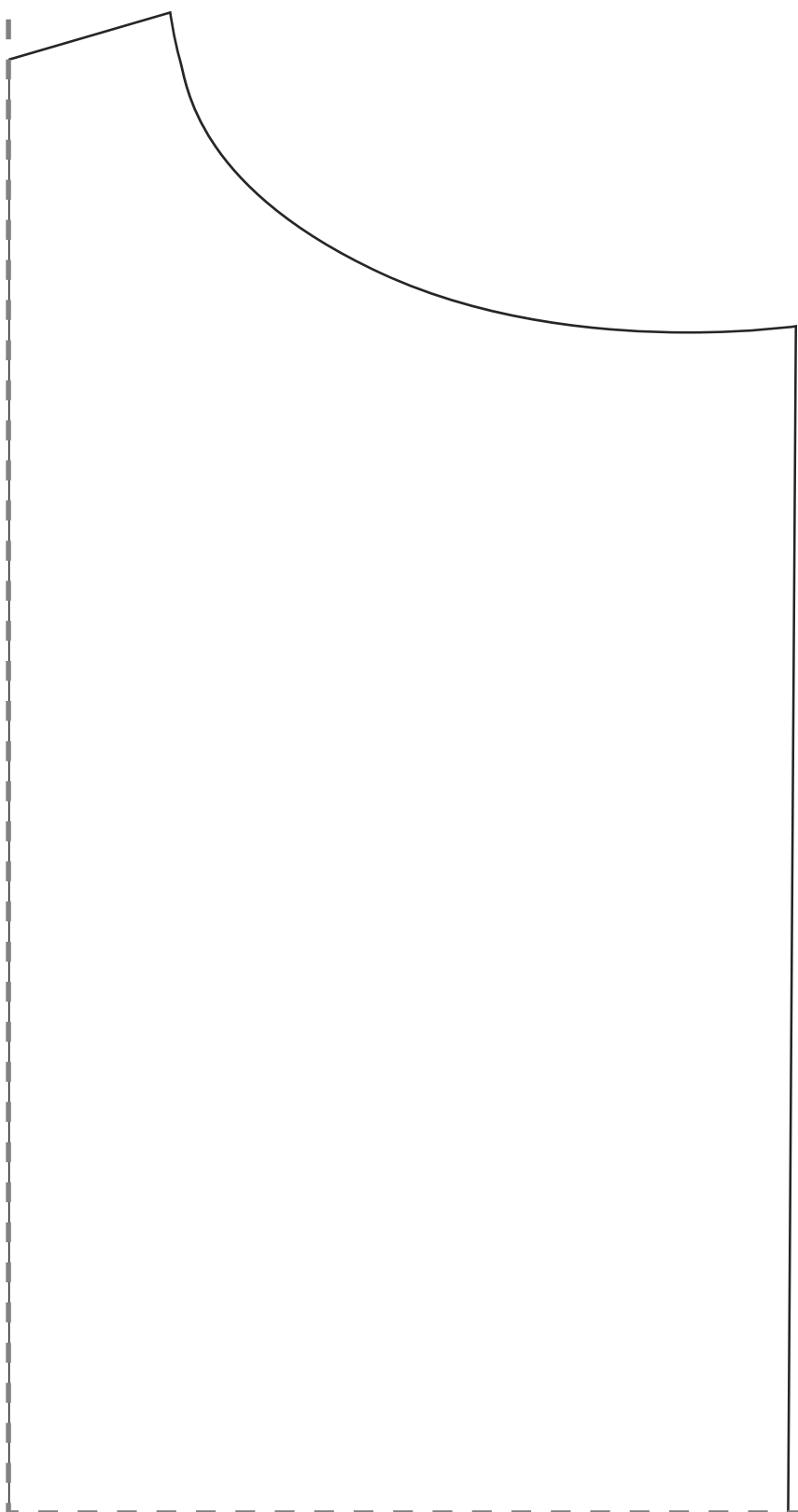
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36



37

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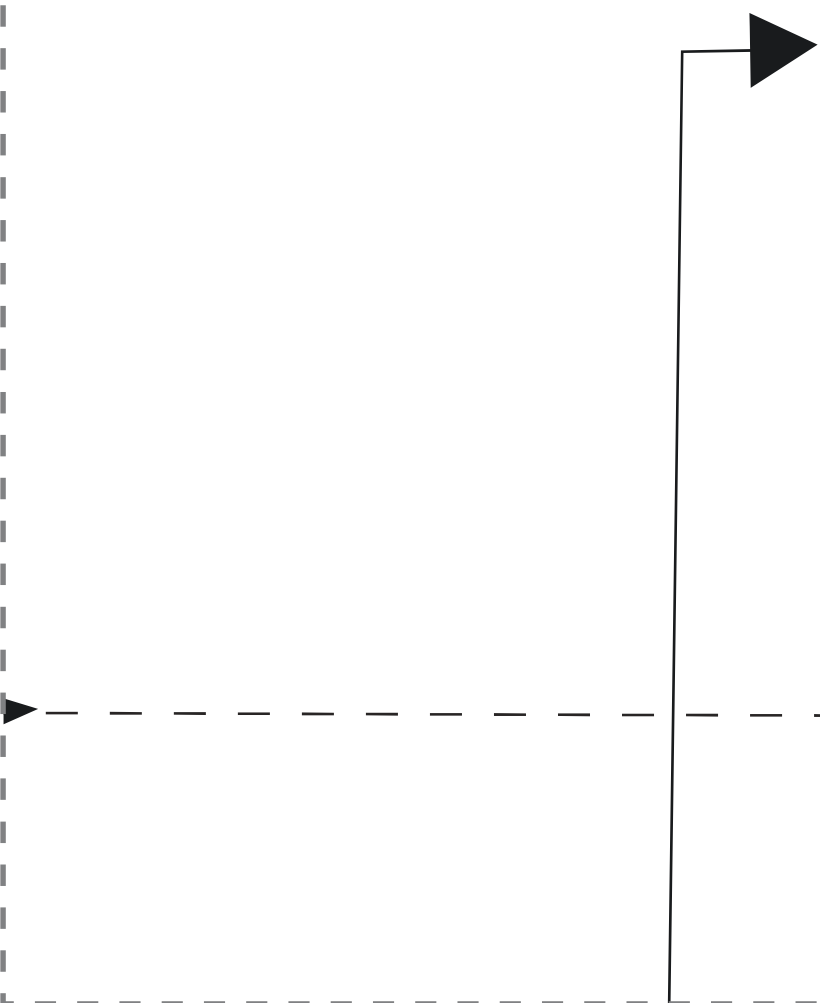
TULIP DRESS
BACK
CUT ONE ON THE FOLD

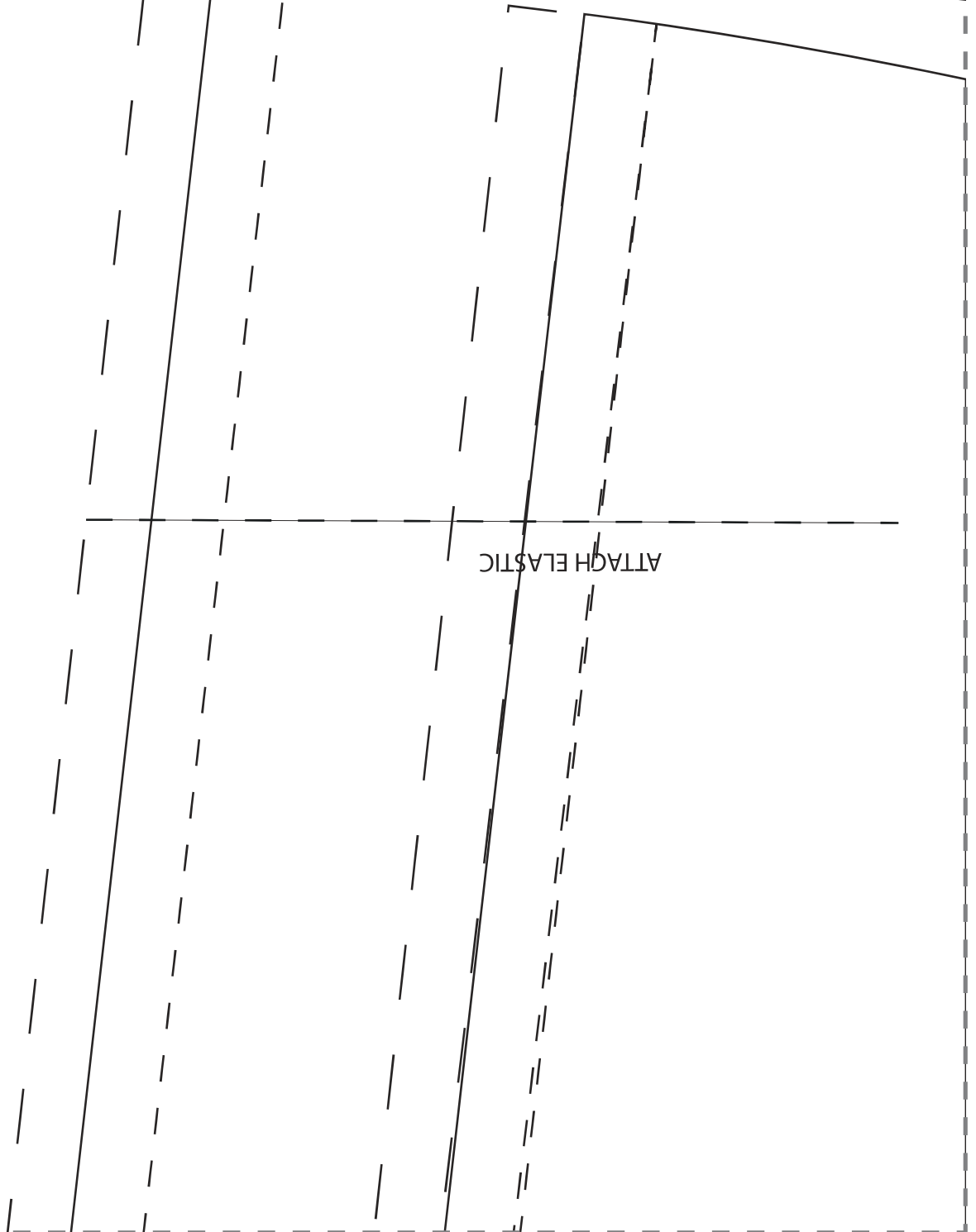
ARMHOLE NOTCH

ATTACH ELASTIC

39

OLD





41

SMALL
MEDIUM
LARGE

TULIP DRESS
FRONT
CUT TWO PAIRS
(FOUR IN TOTAL)



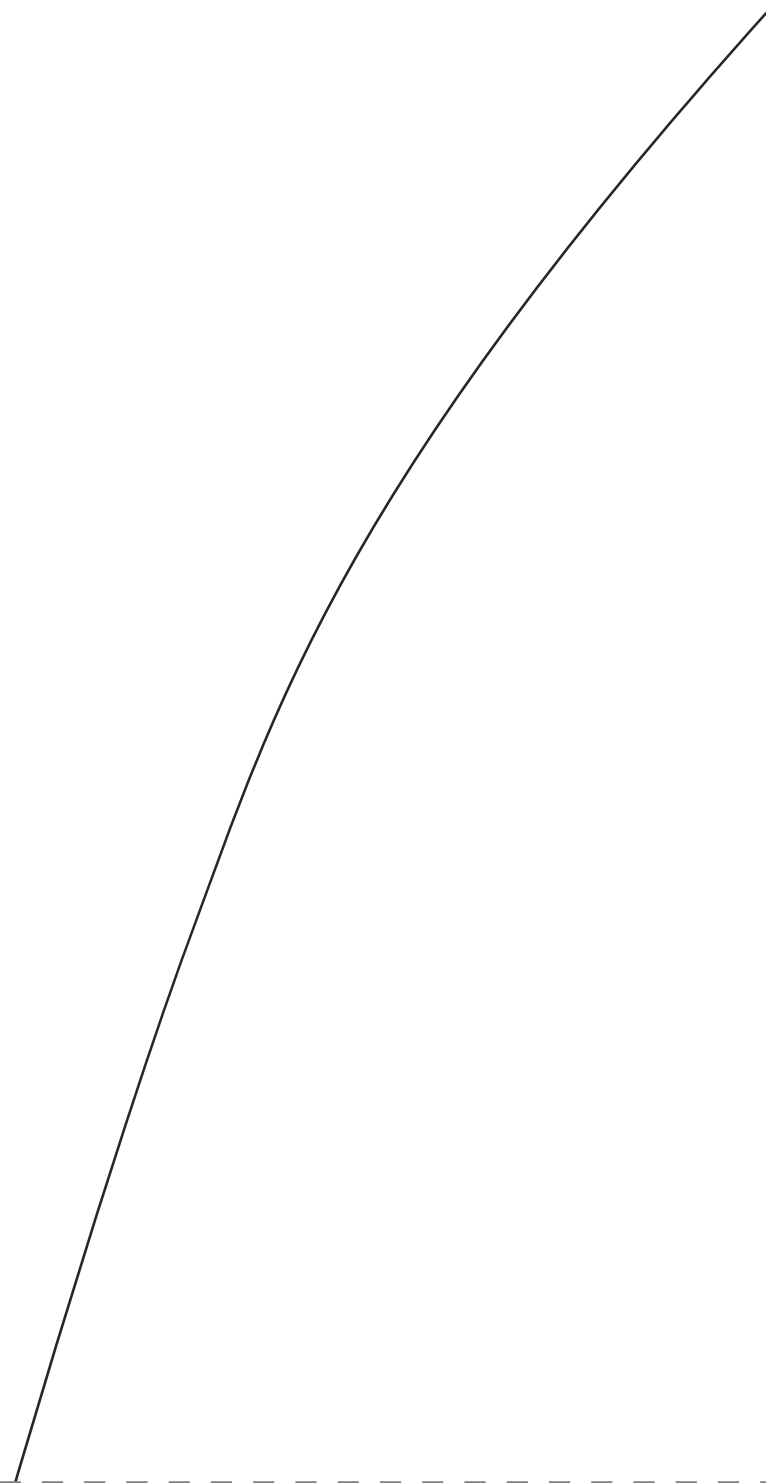
43

CUT ONE ON THE FOLD



45

ARMHOLE NOTCH



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